

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/673,598	HURWITZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yogesh K Aggarwal	2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS**. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 10/21/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.
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DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a faxed copy from Kevin Ransom on January 20, 2005.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Abstract:

Insert the following as added page 13 to the specification:

ABSTRACT

A method of operating a solid state image sensor (1) for the acquisition of an image generated by an asynchronous stimulus (S) is described in which the sensor is operated in conjunction with at least one detector (4) which detects the said asynchronous stimulus. The sensor is regularly reset so as to commence integration from a reset state of the sensor each time a period Tr has elapsed. The output of the detector(s) prior to each reset (R) is used to determine whether that reset is inhibited or not, whereby the likelihood of the stimulus being corrupted is prevented, or at least substantially reduced. A method is also proposed in which a portion of the sensor array is itself used as the detector (4) for detecting the asynchronous stimulus. A solid state image sensor incorporating a reset inhibition control function for carrying out the described method is also claimed.

In The Specification:

- 1) On page 1, line 1, after the title and before the first paragraph, insert the following heading “BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION”.
- 2) On page 1, after the first insertion, (i.e., the background heading), insert the following heading “1) Field of the Invention.”.
- 3) On page 1, line 12, insert the following heading “2) Description of Related Art.”.
- 4) On page 4, line 20, insert the following heading “BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION”.
- 5) On page 6, line 5, insert the following heading “BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS”.
- 6) On page 7, line 6, insert the following heading “DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION”.

In The Drawings:

Please amend Figures 1, 2A, and 2B to include the following indication “(prior art)”.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-15 are allowed.
4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record, neither anticipates nor renders obvious the following limitations as claimed:

[Claims 1,3,7,13]: “.... and said image sensor is allowed to continue integration commenced after a last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus whereby image data captured by the image sensor after said last reset operation before the occurrence of said

asynchronous stimulus is stored and used in the acquisition of said image and image capture data therefore includes image data occurring prior to the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus".

The following prior art shows the current state of the art to this patent application:

i. Fukui (US Patent # 5,422,670) teaches a method of operating a solid state image sensor for the acquisition of an image presented to the sensor in response to an asynchronous stimulus, wherein said image sensor is operated in conjunction with at least one detector which, directly or indirectly, detects the said asynchronous stimulus, said image sensor is regularly reset so as to commence integration from a reset state of the sensor each time a predetermined period has elapsed, and an output from said at least one detector prior to the end of a current predetermined period determines whether the subsequent reset operation of said image sensor is inhibited or not in that if said output indicates the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus then the subsequent reset operation of said image sensor is inhibited (Col. 1 lines 27-68, col. 2 lines 1-2 figure 2).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yogesh K Aggarwal whose telephone number is (703) 305-0346. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00AM-5:30PM.

5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YKA
January 21, 2005



TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER